Gertude Ella Bawden

Gertie, as she was known, was born on 28 June 1900 at 42 Offley Road, Kennington, South London. Her birth certificate gives her father as Frederick Charles Bawden and her mother as Lucretia Mabel Bawden formerly Penrose. Fredrick was not registered with a middle name, although Lucretia Mabel had an exisiting son called Charles. Frederick and Lucretia Mabel were not married, and both went on to marry other people and have families with them. They were known as Fred and Mabel. Charles and Gertie were boarded out and brought up by Henrietta Buckland at 10 Whitely Road Norwood, South London.

Gertie attended Salters Hill infants and the girls school where she did well. She became a civil servant and married Thomas Henry Scott in the Jun quarter of 1923 at Camberwell. Thomas was born in South Shields in the June quarter of 1891, and had been appointed to the clerical class of the Civil Service on 15 July 1921. Their first child Thomas Charles Ronald Scott was born in the second quarter of 1930 in Camberwell, and a daughter, Janet A V Scott was born in Staines Middlesex in the fourth quarter of 1938.

Thomas Henry Scott died on 24 September 1943 at 421/429 Oxford Street London. The cause of death according to the death certificate was *"gunshot wound of skull and brain (self inflicted) due to bullet fired from a revolver at his place of work. Did kill himself while the balance of his mind was disturbed. Inquest held 20th September, 5th October 1943."*

At the time Tom and Gertie were living at 64 Capel Gardens Ilford, East London.

On 20th December 1946, Gertie and her daughter Janet, recorded on the manifest as Janet F Scott, sailed to new York aboard HMS Queen Elizabeth, en route for Durango Colorado, where Gertie married Joseph Dunn, an American GI,. (Jane and Janet have corresponded in the past but have now lost touch).

Gertie died in Fontana, California on 22 December 2003, age 103.

Her obituary in the Durango Herald reads

“Gertrude Ella Dunn, 103, who turned down a chance to type the transcripts of the Nazi war criminal trials in Nuremberg, Germany, to move to Durango, died Monday, Dec. 22, 2003, in Fontana, Calif.
She died of pneumonia after several years of struggling with Alzheimer’s disease, said her daughter, Janet A. Timm.
Mrs. Dunn was born in England on June 28, 1900, where she worked in the War Office in London maintaining casualty records during World War II. She lived in London until she came to Durango as a war bride in January 1947. After more than four decades in Durango, Mrs. Dunn lived in Ignacio for several years before moving to California in 1996. "She just enjoyed her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and all of her family," Janet Timm said.
Mrs. Dunn was preceded in death by her first husband, Thomas Henry Scott of England, her second husband, Joseph Dunn of Durango, and her son, Thomas Charles Scott of Sydney, Australia.
She is survived by her daughter Janet of San Bernardino, Calif.; her grandchildren, John Timm of San Bernardino, Jay Timm of Hesperus and Judie Wilson of Escondido, Calif.; and five great-grandchildren.
A private service and cremation took place in San Bernardino, Calif.”

Gertie’s son Thomas C R Scott lived in Sydney and died there on 21 January 1994 age 62. His death is reported in the Sydney Morning herald of 24 Jan 1994. His wife was Patricia Jones, who he married c1955.